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Item 121 of the preliminary list*

PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences for 1996

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 46/190 of 20 December 1991, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its forty-seventh session, and as appropriate to subsequent sessions, a consolidated statement relating to the number and costs of scheduled special conferences, bearing in mind the annual limit of five as set out in resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985 and endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

2. In its resolution 47/202 A of 22 December 1992, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a revised consolidated statement of scheduled special conferences convened under United Nations auspices towards the end of each of its sessions. In response to that request, information regarding special conferences scheduled after the issuance of the present report will be issued in an addendum.

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* A/50/50/Rev.1.

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II. UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat II)

A. General Assembly resolution 47/180

3. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided to convene the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) from 3 to 14 June 1996.

4. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly for Habitat II; the Preparatory Committee would be open to all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly.

5. In paragraph 7, the Assembly decided that an organizational session of the Preparatory Committee of three days' duration should be held at United Nations Headquarters in March 1993 and that two preparatory sessions should be held, the first early in 1994 at Geneva or in New York, and the second in conjunction with the 1995 session of the Commission on Human Settlements, with the detailed arrangements for the preparatory discussions to be determined at the organizational session.

6. In paragraph 8, the Assembly also decided that, in the event of there being a clear need for further preparatory discussions, an appropriate request might be made by the Preparatory Committee to the General Assembly.

7. In paragraph 10, the Assembly noted with appreciation the offer made by the Government of Turkey to act as host to the Conference, and decided that the Conference would be held in Turkey in 1996.

8. In paragraph 19, the Assembly recommended that regional and subregional preparatory meetings should be held in conjunction with meetings of subregional and regional intergovernmental bodies, wherever possible.

9. In paragraph 20, the Assembly decided that the preparatory process and the Conference itself should be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose.

B. Resolution adopted by the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session

10. In paragraph 5 of the resolution adopted at its organizational session on 5 March 1993, 1/ the Preparatory Committee decided that its first session should take place from 11 to 22 April 1994 at Geneva.

11. In paragraph 6 of the same resolution, the Preparatory Committee decided that it would establish at each session, on the basis of its agenda, the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups, as well as the need for other specific sessional arrangements for its work, on the understanding that the

number of such groups would not exceed three during a particular session and that no more than two of them would meet simultaneously.

C. Preparatory Committee decision I/1

12. By its decision I/1 of 22 April 1994, the Preparatory Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly resolution 47/180, that there be a third Preparatory Committee session, of relatively short duration, early in 1996.

D. Preparatory Committee decision I/5

13. By its decision I/5 of 22 April 1994, the Preparatory Committee, bearing in mind the decision of the General Assembly contained in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/170, recommended that the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee be held in conjunction with the 1995 session of the Commission on Human Settlements, and recognizing the strong desire of Member States that, in the interest of efficiency, the total duration of both meetings should not exceed two weeks altogether, decided, inter alia, that the second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee should be held at Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May 1995.

E. General Assembly resolution 49/109

14. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 49/109 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly took note of the reports of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II on its organizational session and its first substantive session, and endorsed the decisions contained therein.

15. In paragraph 3, the Assembly approved the recommendation contained in Preparatory Committee decision I/1 that a third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee, of relatively short duration, be held at United Nations Headquarters early in 1996 to complete the preparatory work for the Conference.

16. In paragraph 11 of the same resolution, the Assembly requested that the work of the Preparatory Committee and the ad hoc secretariat of Habitat II should continue to be funded from within existing United Nations budgetary resources to ensure that the Conference would be treated adequately with respect to other global international United Nations conferences.

F. Sessions of the Preparatory Committee

17. The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters from 3 to 5 March 1993. The conference-servicing requirements for the organizational session were estimated at $118,400.

18. The first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee was convened at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 April 1994. The conference-servicing requirements for the first session were estimated at $754,700 on a theoretical full-cost basis.

19. The second substantive session of the Preparatory Committee was held at Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May 1995, and the third substantive session is expected to be held at Headquarters early in 1996. The conference-servicing requirements for the second and third sessions are estimated on the same theoretical full-cost basis at $607,700 and $768,400, respectively.

20. The estimates of the cost of conference-servicing requirements for the years 1993-1996 are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under sections 41 and 25, respectively, of the programme budgets for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, and section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. However, as indicated in paragraph 26E.4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience so that it could accommodate not only meetings known at the time of budget preparation but also additional meetings, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1996-1997 is consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it was estimated that no additional resources were required under sections 41 and 25, respectively, of the programme budgets for the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995, and that no additional resources will be required under section 26 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997.

G. United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

21. Habitat II will be held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 3 to 14 June 1996. Cost estimates for the Conference are based on the assumption that it would be held for 10 days in Nairobi, the established headquarters of the substantive organizational unit. It is understood that any additional costs resulting from the change of the meeting venue to Istanbul would, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 40/243, be borne by the Government of Turkey.

22. The costs of conference-servicing requirements for the Conference on the same theoretical full-cost basis described above are estimated at $1,645,200.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/48/37), para. 22.